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### 1. Introduction

In this edition of our newsletter, we hope to inform you of issues important for American citizens resident in India and keep you abreast of U.S. government initiatives in India. If there is a topic that you would like us to address in a future newsletter, please e-mail us.

Thank you,

Jeremy Cornforth  
American Citizen Services Unit Chief

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### 2. Meet Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Dr. Condoleezza Rice became Secretary of State on January 26, 2005. Prior to this, she was the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, commonly referred to as the National Security Advisor, since January 2001.

In June 1999, she completed a six-year tenure as Stanford University's Provost, during which she was the institution's chief budget and academic officer. As Provost, Dr. Rice was responsible for a \$1.5 billion annual budget as well as the academic program involving 1,400 faculty members and 14,000 students.

As professor of political science, Dr. Rice was on the Stanford faculty since 1981 and won two of the highest teaching honors -- the 1984 Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 1993 School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

At Stanford, Dr. Rice was a member of the Center for International Security and Arms Control, a Senior Fellow of the Institute for International Studies, and a Fellow (by courtesy) of the Hoover Institution. Her books include *Germany Unified and Europe Transformed* (1995) with Philip Zelikow, *The Gorbachev Era* (1986) with Alexander Dallin, and *Uncertain Allegiance: The Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Army* (1984). She also has written numerous articles on Soviet and East European foreign and defense policy, and has addressed audiences in settings ranging from the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Moscow to the Commonwealth Club to the 1992 and 2000 Republican National Conventions.

From 1989 through March 1991, the period of German reunification and the final days of the Soviet Union, Dr. Rice served in the Bush Administration as Director, and then Senior Director, of Soviet and East European Affairs in the National Security Council, and a Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. In 1986, while an international affairs fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, she served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 1997, she served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Gender -- Integrated Training in the Military.

Dr. Rice was also a member of the boards of directors for the Chevron Corporation, the Charles Schwab Corporation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the University of Notre Dame, the International

Advisory Council of J.P. Morgan and the San Francisco Symphony Board of Governors. In addition, she was a Founding Board member of the Center for a New Generation, an educational support fund for schools in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park, California and was Vice President of the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula. Dr. Rice's past board service has encompassed such organizations as Transamerica Corporation, Hewlett Packard, the Carnegie Corporation, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Rand Corporation, the National Council for Soviet and East European Studies, the Mid-Peninsula Urban Coalition and KQED, public broadcasting for San Francisco.

Born November 14, 1954 in Birmingham, Alabama, Condoleezza Rice earned her Bachelor's Degree in political science, cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Denver in 1974; her Master's Degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1975; and her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has been awarded honorary doctorates from Morehouse College in 1991, the University of Alabama in 1994, the University of Notre Dame in 1995, the National Defense University in 2002, the Mississippi College School of Law in 2003, the University of Louisville and Michigan State University in 2004. Dr. Rice resides in Washington, DC.

(Source: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/>)

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### **3. President Bush's Visit to India**

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush concluded a successful visit to India from March 1-3 -- only the fifth state visit of an American President since India's independence in 1947. The trip included a visit to the southern city of Hyderabad as well as a grand ceremonial reception and state dinner at the President's Palace in New Delhi and a wreath-laying at the Raj Ghat. President Bush's visit included a "meet and greet" with U.S. Embassy personnel and their families, whom he thanked for their service so far from home. During her itinerary, Mrs. Bush visited Prayas, a home for young girls who are victims of trafficking, and an orphanage administered by the Missionaries of Charity. She also starred in an episode of "Galli Galli Sim Sim," the Indian version of Sesame Street. Throughout their trip, both the President and Mrs. Bush expressed their great appreciation for India's hospitality and heralded India's transformation, its diversity and its entrepreneurial spirit, laying a foundation for a growing partnership between the world's oldest and largest democracies.

In their Joint Statement, President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed satisfaction with the great progress the United States and India have made in advancing our strategic partnership to meet the global challenges of the 21st century. They stated that our countries are linked by a deep commitment to freedom and democracy; a celebration of national diversity, human creativity and innovation; a quest to expand prosperity and economic opportunity worldwide; and a desire to increase mutual security against the common threats posed by intolerance, terrorism, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The successful transformation of the U.S.-India relationship, they continued, will have a decisive and positive influence on the future international system as it evolves in this new century, and they reaffirmed their commitment to expand even further the growing ties between their two countries, highlighting the efforts the U.S. and India are making together for economic prosperity and trade, energy security and a clean environment, innovation and the knowledge economy, and global safety and security.

During this historic visit, the governments of the United States and India made a number of important announcements, including one by the President and Prime Minister Singh that they had reached an historic agreement on civil nuclear cooperation. The agreement addresses India's surging energy needs for its growing economy. The two leaders also announced new initiatives on Science and Technology, Agricultural Knowledge, Maritime Security, Space, Energy, Wildlife Trade and Health.

Americans interested in learning more about the trip can visit the U.S. Embassy in India's website at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov>, or the White House website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/india-pakistan>. A number of beautiful photos of the trip are also on the White House website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/president/gallery/photoessay>.

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#### 4. IRS Representative Coming to Mumbai – Appointments Available

A representative from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be in Mumbai in mid-March to present a free tax seminar and hold consultations for those who are required to file U.S. federal income taxes, including American citizens, lawful permanent residents, and certain nonimmigrant visa holders. Tax returns for 2005 must be submitted by April 17, 2006.

The seminar will take place on Monday, March 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the American Center. The American Center, also known in the area as "USIS," is located at 4 New Marine Lines, Churchgate, on the same street at Bombay Hospital, one block east of Churchgate station near SNDT College.

The tax representative will also be available for 15 minute in-person consultations at the American Citizen Services office at the Consulate General in Breach Candy from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 13, and Tuesday, March 14. In addition, she will perform 15-minute phone consultations from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14.

Appointments are required for the personal consultations and are available on a first-come-first-served basis, and individuals who wish to attend the tax seminar should RSVP. To make an appointment, please call 022-2363-3611, ext. 4306 or 4134 or send an e-mail to [mumbaiacs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaiacs@state.gov).

- ***Please note that the IRS representative is not an accountant and will not prepare your tax return for you. She acts as a resource to offer guidance. Most IRS tax forms are available online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).***

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#### 5. Avian Influenza Town Hall

On Wednesday, February 8, 2006, the American Consulate General hosted a Town Hall on the U.S. government's response to avian influenza outbreaks. Dr. Christine Hughes, the Regional Medical Officer based at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, spoke via digital video conference about the history of avian influenza, the global implications of an avian influenza pandemic, and steps that individuals can take to protect themselves.

On February 18, 2006, the Indian government announced the first official report of avian influenza in poultry in India. The outbreak occurred in the area of Navapur, Maharashtra, including poultry farms a few miles away across the Gujarat state line. There have been no official reports of infection by humans in India of the H5N1 avian influenza virus. To keep abreast of this changing situation, you are encouraged to periodically check the Avian Flu section of our website at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/acsinfluenza.html>. In certain cases, we will be sending warden messages regarding avian influenza, if the situation so warrants.

There are actions that you and your family may now take to protect yourself from avian influenza, many of which are common sense steps such as proper hand washing and food handling. The Embassy in New Delhi has prepared a series of Questions & Answers on Avian Influenza, including information on the availability of the drug "Tamiflu" in India, which are available at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/acsinfluenzaquea.html>. These Questions & Answers will be updated as additional information is obtained by the Embassy.

If you intend to stay in India for some time, you should ensure that you have a relationship with a primary care physician who can advise you on health matters important to you and your family. For Americans living in Mumbai, the Consular Section has prepared a list of local hospitals and doctors. This document is available on the Consulate website at [http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/med\\_res.html](http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/med_res.html).

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#### 6. Message from the Regional Security Officer

(This section is provided by the Regional Security Office of the American Consulate General in Mumbai. Its purpose is to provide safety and security information to American citizens in the Mumbai consular district. It is for informational purposes only.)

Beware of e-mails that appear to be from financial institutions requesting account information. Many are purportedly from banks that you do not have an account with, but on occasion they do appear to be from your actual bank. These e-mails are called "phishing" e-mails (aka carding or brand spoofing e-mails).

Phishing is the luring of sensitive information, such as passwords and other personal information, from a victim by masquerading as someone trustworthy with a real need for such information. Typically, a phishing e-mail will appear to come from a trustworthy company and contain a subject and message intended to alarm the recipient into taking action. A common approach is to tell the recipient that their account has been de-activated due to a problem and inform them that they must take action to re-activate their account. The user is provided with a convenient link in the same e-mail that takes the email recipient to a fake webpage appearing to be that of a trustworthy company. Once at that page, the user enters her personal information, which is then captured by the fraudster.

These scams are not just associated with banks but can include E-Bay, Paypal, and many internet shopping sites like Amazon and Yahoo.

Do not visit the website link identified in such e-mails. These links may direct you to unauthorized web sites or sites that download malicious files to your server.

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## 7. Overseas Citizenship of India

Many Americans have inquired about the new "Overseas Citizens of India" (OCI) program, which is often mistaken as a "dual nationality" program. However, **the OCI program does not grant Indian citizenship.** Thus, an American citizen with an Indian heritage, who obtains an OCI card is not a citizen of India. That person remains a citizen of only one country--the United States. An OCI card in reality is similar to a U.S. "green card" in that a holder can travel to and from India indefinitely, work in India, study in India, and own property in India (except for certain agricultural and plantation properties). An OCI holder, however, does not receive an Indian passport, cannot vote in Indian elections and is not eligible for government employment in India.

The OCI program is similar to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card introduced by the Indian government several years ago, except that PIO holders must still register with Indian immigration authorities, and PIO cards are not issued for an indefinite period.

If you are an American citizen of Indian descent (or the dependent of an Indian or Indian-American) you may be eligible for a PIO card, or an OCI card. Interested parties may view information on Overseas Citizenship of India and how to apply for it at <http://www.mha.nic.in/oci/oci-main.htm>. Inside India, you can apply at any Foreigner's Regional Registration Office (FRRO). In Mumbai, the FRRO is located at behind St. Xavier College (tel. 022-2262-0446).

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## 8. Applying for Social Security Benefits Online

You can now apply for Social Security benefits including retirement benefits, spouse's benefits and disability benefits online by going to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyforbenefits) and following the instructions.

### RETIREMENT BENEFITS

To prepare for filing retirement benefits, see How to Apply for Retirement Benefits section at [www.socialsecurity.gov/r&m2.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/r&m2.htm).

### DISABILITY

To apply for disability claims visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability). Reviewing and collecting the information shown in the Disability Starter Kit will help prepare you for your disability interview or help you to complete your online Disability Report. The Disability Report Form asks for information about your conditions or impairments that prevent you from working.

### SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

At this time, you cannot apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits online. If you wish to file for SSI benefits (aged, blind or disabled) please contact the Social Security Administration directly. You may

however complete the Disability Report online. You can also view the Fact Sheet and Checklist in the Disability Starter Kit to see what information you will need and the kinds of questions you will be asked when you have your disability interview in your local Social Security office or over the phone.

#### OBTAINING A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR REPLACEMENT SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

A new law, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, includes several provisions that change the rules for assigning a Social Security number and issuing a Social Security card.

To get a Social Security number or a replacement card, you must prove your U.S. citizenship or immigration status and your identity. For a replacement card, proof of your U.S. citizenship is not required if it is already on record for your Social Security number. Under the new law, only certain documents can be accepted as proof of U.S. citizenship. These include your U.S. birth certificate, a U.S. passport, a Certificate of Naturalization or a Certificate of Citizenship.

If you need to change your name on your Social Security card you must show proof of your legal name change. Documents that Social Security will accept to prove a legal name change are your marriage certificate, divorce decree specifically stating you may change your name, Certificate of Naturalization showing a new name or a court order for a name change.

You can replace your Social Security card if it is lost or stolen. You are now limited to three replacement cards in a year and 10 during your lifetime. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits.

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### **9. Kids' Corner**

Many of the main departments of the U.S. Government including the State Department, the White House, the CIA, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive have special web pages designed especially for kids. They are a great place to visit to learn about U.S. history, diplomacy, and traditions while also getting to play games and have a good time.

State Department Website for Children - <http://future.state.gov>

White House Website for Children - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/>.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Website for Children - <http://www.odci.gov/cia/ciakids/>

Social Security Information for Kids - <http://www.ssa.gov/kids/kids.htm>

U.S. Marshals Information for Kids - <http://www.usmarshals.gov/usmsforkids/index.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Kids - <http://www.usda.gov/news/usdakids/index.html>

Federal Communications Commission for Kids - <http://www.fcc.gov/kidszone/>

Federal Citizen Information Center/ First Gov for Kids - [http://www.kids.gov/k\\_gov.htm](http://www.kids.gov/k_gov.htm)

#### **President's Day (February 20)**

Presidents' Day is celebrated in February to honor two of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The holiday is celebrated in the United States on the third Monday in February.

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. When he was born, America was not a nation yet. It belonged to England, a country across the ocean. People in America didn't want to belong to England so they fought a war to become a separate country. George Washington was an American general in the war. America won the war and picked a new name for itself: The United States of America. George Washington was elected to be its first President. A legend is told about George Washington as a boy. Young George had a new hatchet and with it he cut down a small cherry tree. When his father saw the tree, he was angry. "George," he said. "Did you do that?" George was afraid to admit that he did.

Nevertheless, the boy decided to tell the truth. "Yes, Father," he said, "I cut down the cherry tree with my hatchet. I cannot tell a lie." George Washington's father was proud of George for telling the truth.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12 in 1809. Things were different then. When Abe was a boy, he lived in a log cabin. A log cabin is a small house made out of logs cut from trees. His father cut down the

trees and made the cabin.

There were no electric lights in the cabin. Young Abe read books by firelight and drew with charcoal on a shovel. Abe's family was poor. Often he went barefoot because he didn't have any shoes.

When Abraham Lincoln grew up, he studied hard and became a lawyer. Then he was elected to be a law-maker. In 1861, Abraham Lincoln became the 16th President of the United States. He is known for freeing the slaves held in the United States during the Civil War.

(Source: <http://www.alphabet-soup.net/hol/president.html>)

### **Benjamin Franklin: The First American Diplomat**

Benjamin Franklin, the most distinguished scientific and literary American of his age, was the first American diplomat. He served from 1776 to 1778 on a three-man commission to France charged with the critical task of gaining French support for American independence. French aristocrats and intellectuals embraced Franklin as the personification of the New World Enlightenment. His likeness appeared on medallions, rings, watches, and snuffboxes, while fashionable ladies adopted the coiffure à la Franklin in imitation of the fur cap he wore instead of a wig. His popularity and diplomatic skill--along with the first American battlefield success at Saratoga--convinced France to recognize American independence and conclude an alliance with the 13 States in 1778. Franklin presented his credentials to the French court in 1779, becoming the first American Minister (the 18th American century equivalent of ambassador) to be received by a foreign government. Franklin's home in Passy, just outside Paris, became the center of American diplomacy in Europe. When Thomas Jefferson succeeded Franklin in 1785, the French Foreign Minister, Vergennes asked: "It is you who replace Dr. Franklin?" Jefferson replied, "No one can replace him, Sir; I am only his successor."

(Source: [http://future.state.gov/when/timeline/1776\\_timeline/ben\\_franklin.html](http://future.state.gov/when/timeline/1776_timeline/ben_franklin.html))

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## **10. Useful websites and email addresses**

Nonimmigrant Visa Inquiries – [mumbainiv@state.gov](mailto:mumbainiv@state.gov)

Immigrant Visa Inquiries – [mumbaiiv@state.gov](mailto:mumbaiiv@state.gov)

American Citizen Services Inquiries – [mumbaiacs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaiacs@state.gov)

U.S. Consulate General Mumbai website <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>

State Department Employment Opportunities [www.careers.state.gov](http://www.careers.state.gov)

Travel Advisories <http://travel.state.gov>

Internal Revenue Service (for tax forms and information) [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

Department of Motor Vehicles (for driver's license renewal information) [www.dmv.org](http://www.dmv.org)

Social Security Administration [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

U. S. Customs [www.customs.ustras.gov](http://www.customs.ustras.gov)

Indian Customs [www.cbec.gov.in](http://www.cbec.gov.in)

Indian Immigration (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) [www.immigrationindia.nic.in](http://www.immigrationindia.nic.in) or [www.mha.nic.in](http://www.mha.nic.in)

Mumbai Police [www.mumbai.police.com](http://www.mumbai.police.com)

Medicare <http://www.medicare.gov>

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## **11. ACS Hours, Consulate Holidays and Important Policy Changes**

### **Our hours**

The American Citizen Services Office is open to the public from Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our phone number is (022) 2363-3611, extension 4306. You may also reach us by email at [mumbaiacs@state.gov](mailto:mumbaiacs@state.gov).

Holiday schedule

The Consulate will be closed on March 15, March 30, April 14, May 1, and May 29, 2006.

Policy changes

We now offer courier pass-back service for new passports. If you would like us to send your new passport by courier, you may purchase a pre-paid courier envelope from VFS for Rs. 138 and deposit it with your passport application. VFS offices are located in the following places:

**VFS Mumbai**

Tirupati Apartments  
Bhulabhai Desai Road  
Opposite Mahalkshmi Temple  
Mumbai 400026

**VFS Ahmedabad**

Gujarat Chambers Building  
Shri Ambika Mills  
Ashram Road

**VFS Pune**

106 Sohrab Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Sassoon Road  
Behind Pune Station Junction